Improvement of Gulbarga airport

920. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the work of improvement of Gulbarga airport;

(b) the total amount spent on this till date; and

(c) the details of the total budgetary funds alloted during the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No airport exists at Gulbarga.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of independent Regulator for Civil Aviation

921. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that civil aviation is the only sector which has no independent Regulator on the lines of TRAI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Planning Commission has strongly recommended for the setting up of independent Regulator to address technical, management, operational, licensing, safety and security related problems; and

(d) if so, whether GoMs will address the aspect of the Planning Commission and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A draft Bill regarding setting up of an Airport Economic Regulatory Authority has been approved by the Government for introduction in the Parliament shortly.

Collision of vehicles at IGIA, New Delhi

922. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a large number of accidents of collision of vehicles at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have not given adequate attention towards the safety of passengers, drivers of tractors and others; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact the number of accidents has reduced over the last few years. Between October, 2004 and August, 2007, 43 accidents have taken place.

(c) and (d) Government consider safety of passengers and that of drivers driving the vehicles of paramount importance. The following measures have been taken to enhance safety of passengers/drivers/etc. on apron:

1. Use of speed gun to monitor/control vehicular movement.
2. Deployment of Airside Monitoring and Inspection jeeps for enforcement of apron rules and regulations.
3. Restriction of speed in some "Accident prone areas".
4. Installation of additional information signs regarding speed limit.
5. Fencing of critical equipment parking areas to control entry/exit of vehicular/equipment.
6. Redesigning of apron layout to reduce vehicular movement.

Tripartite agreement for maintenance of aircraft

923. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of tripartite agreement entered into between Indian Airlines, Airbus and Jupiter Aviation for maintenance, repair and overhaul joint venture;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is first of its kind in the Indian aviation industry;

(c) what are the new technologies expected to come from Airbus; and

(d) by when the first phase of services are going to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No Tripartite agreement has been entered into among Indian Airlines, Airbus and Jupiter Aviation for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Joint Venture (MRO-JV). However, Term Sheet has been executed on 10.5.2007 between Indian Airlines and Jupiter Aviation and Logistics Pvt. Ltd. which has been endorsed by Airbus Industries with a commitment to provide full support to the joint venture with a view to meeting the Airbus MRO obligation arising out of the purchase of 43 aircraft by Indian Airlines. The Term Sheet is intended to serve only as a basis for discussion of the major prospective business terms that would apply to the prospective joint venture between Indian Airlines and Jupiter Aviation and Logistics Pvt. Ltd. As per the term sheet, execution of the JV is subject to the approvals of the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines Ltd. and of the Government.